

Applicant: Thompson, David L.
Serial No.: 09/781,750

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REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification has been amended, claims 1-31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and new claims 32-51 have been added. Claims 32-51 are pending and under consideration.

I. Objections to the Specification

The specification stands objected to because of informalities. Applicant wishes to extend his gratitude to the Examiner for pointing out the informality. Page 14, line 10 of the specification has been amended to change "lumen 252" to "lumen 250" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

II. Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,793,825 to Benjamin et al. Claims 1-31 have been cancelled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. New Claims Added

New claims 32-51 have been added. Support for new claims 29-39 can be found, for example, on page 14, line 4 to page 18, line 9, for example. No new matter has been added. None of the referenced prior art documents, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features set forth in new claims 32-51 of the present invention. As a result, new claims 32-51 are patentable distinguishable over the referenced prior art documents. Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claims 32-51 is respectfully requested.

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VII. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

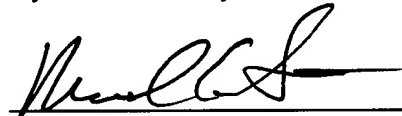
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Thompson et al.,
By their attorney,

Date: Oct. 4, 2002



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 14, line 10, has been amended as follows:

Central lumen [252] 250 is defined by outer jacket 256 that may be formed of any biocompatible material that may be etched, such as polyethylene glycol or polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or a similar material. The outer jacket may be treated with a material to prevent tissue in-growth. For example, the outer jacket may be coated with a porous Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) layer such as may be formed of expanded PTFE (e-PTFE) having a pore size of less than 10 microns or smaller. This is described in U.S. Patent 5,609,622.

